

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 273

By Niceley

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church on the occasion of its 220th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church, whose members will this year celebrate the church's 220th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary celebration, which will take the form of services of praise and reflection, will be held on Saturday, September 30th and Sunday, October 1st; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church was founded on October 1, 1797, in present-day Speedwell, then known as Yoakum Station Fort; it was established by a small group of dedicated petitioners who moved to the Powell Valley area from the Carolinas and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the brethren who organized the church were knowledgeable of the Primitive Baptist faith practices, including the Lord's Supper and the practice of washing feet as a show of humility; and

WHEREAS, in the early years, the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church was part of the Holston Association; then, in 1802, the church became a member of the Tennessee

Association, retaining membership until 1818, at which time the church, along with several other churches in the Tennessee Association, formed the Powell Valley Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout its more than two centuries, the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church has counted among its members many individuals from families whose surnames are recognizable in the Upper East Tennessee region, including those of Yoakum, Marsee, Ausmus, Hunter, Vanbebber, Box, Weaver, Jones, Newport, Parmarly, Davis, McClain, McBride, Boydstun, Maddox, Raines, Harrison, Owens, and Hopper; and

WHEREAS, Maltalee Raines, a septuagenarian member of the church whose husband, Herman, was church clerk until his death, remarks that "Just about all the people in this community have a direct link to the church because it's been here so long"; and

WHEREAS, under the current leadership of Elder Steve Greene, the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church continues its impressive legacy of devoted fellowship and worship, serving as a testament to the enduring power of faith in action; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church has become one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation, as it has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 220 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join in celebrating the 220th anniversary of the Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church, thank Elder Steve Greene and the good people of this remarkable congregation for their notable service to their Lord and this State, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.